

I have read many of the comments filed in response to 03-104, the request by the FCC for comments on issues associated with broadband internet access over power lines. These comments appear to fall into two camps, those that believe they can become rich by using power lines to provide broadband access and those licensed users of the HF and low VHF spectrum that provide in depth information showing that practical BPL systems radiate significant noise in the HF and low VHF spectrum.

I find it disturbing that the supporters of BPL assert that there is not a problem with their proposals causing interference to Amateur Radio Operators, US Government HF users, and Shortwave users yet simple tests with standard equipment show that there is easily a 40-60 dB increases in the noise floor adjacent to power lines in residential neighborhoods. This increase in the HF noise renders useless the HF radio spectrum to communications users. I urge the FCC to introduce conducted and radiated standards to insure that any use of power lines to provide broadband internet access can not increase the HF noise floor adjacent to low and medium power lines in order to protect licensed users of the HF and VHF spectrum. It is hard enough to convince power companies to find and eliminate RFI from their systems as it is. In addition articles in refereed engineering journals by proponents of BPL explicitly state that their plans are not possible where standards are in place to protect the HF spectrum.

In addition the recent power blackout shows that power companies should invest their funds into improving their core business rather than trying to "join the bandwagon" of providing internet and other data access via their lines.

Respectfully submitted, Thomas G. Azlin, N4ZPT